

Polk County Sheriff's Office
Citizen Inquiry / Complaint Form



Complainant's Name Luis Angel Loza
Address [REDACTED] City Des Moines State IA Zip Code [REDACTED]
Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # [REDACTED] Work Phone # _____ Date of Birth: _____
Gender ☐ Female ☐ Male
Date of Incident 8/27/11 Time of Incident 2:00pm Arrested? ☒ No ☐ Yes Case # _____
Location of Incident Copy Systems, Inc. E. University Ave. + Hubbell Ave.
Sheriff's Office Staff Involved Deputy Shawn Vanhoozer
Other Agency Staff Involved _____

Witness Name Ernesto Serralto
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____ Work Phone # _____
Witness Name Josymar Garcia
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # [REDACTED] Work Phone # _____

Please see attached summary.

Complaint Details

A person who reports or causes to be reported false information, knowing the information is false, or who reports the alleged occurrence of a criminal act knowing the act did not occur, commits a misdemeanor. An officer shall have the right to pursue civil remedies under the law against a citizen arising from the filing of a false complaint against the officer.

Complainant Signature Luis Loza Date/Time 9/6/11
Sheriff's Staff Receiving _____ Date/Time _____

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT WITH DEPUTY SHAWN VANHOOZER

On August 27, 2011, at approximately 2:00 p.m. we are headed eastbound on I-235 in a truck. Ernesto Serralto is driving. Josymar Garcia is a passenger in the front seat. I am a passenger in the back seat.

We plan to exit at the East University/Highway 163 exit. There is a vehicle in the right-hand lane (the East University exit lane), which we later learned was driven by Polk County Deputy Shawn Vanhoozer. He is off-duty and with his family.

Ernesto is trying to get into the East University exit lane. He uses his turn signal to indicate that he wishes to move into the exit lane. When Ernesto speeds up, Deputy Vanhoozer speeds up. When Ernesto slows to try to get into the lane behind Deputy Vanhoozer, the deputy slows down. Basically, Deputy Vanhoozer refuses to allow Ernesto to move into the exit lane regardless of what Ernesto does. Ernesto finally speeds up, gets in front of Deputy Vanhoozer, and exits the freeway at East University.

Deputy Vanhoozer follows us off of the freeway. He pulls his car alongside us on our driver's-side once we are traveling eastbound on East University. Deputy Vanhoozer has his passenger window down and is staring at us as we are driving.

We then reach a red light at the intersection of East University and Delaware. Deputy Vanhoozer starts yelling at us through his passenger-side window. Deputy Vanhoozer says "pull over [REDACTED]" calls us "[REDACTED]" and asks us if we want to fight.

When the light turns green Deputy Vanhoozer speeds ahead, cuts in front of us, and turns into a parking lot on East University. Ernesto does not understand what Deputy Vanhoozer wants or why the deputy told us to pull over, so Ernesto follows him into the parking lot.

Deputy Vanhoozer exits his car once we are in the parking lot. No one from our truck gets out. Deputy Vanhoozer first goes to our passenger-side window and yells at Ernesto over Josymar. Ernesto asks Deputy Vanhoozer why he did not allow Ernesto to move into the East University exit lane. Deputy Vanhoozer says "I don't give a [REDACTED] you [REDACTED]." Deputy Vanhoozer twice asks if Ernesto wants to fight. Ernesto says "I don't care." Deputy Vanhoozer then runs around the truck and starts punching Ernesto as Ernesto is trying to get out of the truck (Ernesto is trapped between the driver's door and the truck's frame). I am out of the truck by this time and yell at Deputy Vanhoozer to stop hitting Ernesto. Ernesto manages one defensive punch, which backs Deputy Vanhoozer off and allows Ernesto to get free. Deputy Vanhoozer then draws a gun from the waistband of his pants, says "I have a gun," and hits me in the head with it, knocking me unconscious and lacerating my head.

At some point Josymar calls 911. While I am unconscious I believe that Ernesto and Josymar tell Deputy Vanhoozer that they have called the police. Deputy Vanhoozer then gets in his car and leaves.